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WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING
OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL
COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

WESTERN SAHARA

Working paper prepared by the Secretariat

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I. GENERAL

1. A detailed account of general conditions and developments relating to Western Sahara was provided in the previous working paper on the Territory prepared by the Secretariat (A/AC.109/1194).

II. CONSIDERATION BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS FORTY-NINTH SESSION

2. At the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly, reference was made to the question of Western Sahara by a number of representatives during their statements in plenary meetings. An account of the Fourth Committee's consideration of the item at the forty-ninth session is given in the related report of the Committee to the General Assembly. 1/

3. On 9 December 1994, on the recommendation of the Fourth Committee, the General Assembly adopted, without a vote, resolution 49/44 on the question of Western Sahara. The operative part of the resolution reads as follows:

"The General Assembly ...

"1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General; 2/

"2. Pays tribute to the Secretary-General and the personnel of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara for their action with a view to settling the question of Western Sahara by the implementation of the settlement plan;

"3. Reiterates its support for further efforts of the Secretary-General for the organization and supervision by the United Nations, in cooperation with the Organization of African Unity, of a referendum for self-determination of the people of Western Sahara, in conformity with Security Council resolutions 658 (1990) and 690 (1991), in which the Council adopted the settlement plan for Western Sahara;

"4. Reaffirms that the goal on which all were agreed consists in the holding of a free, fair and impartial referendum for the people of Western Sahara, organized and conducted by the United Nations in cooperation with the Organization of African Unity and without any military or administrative constraints, in conformity with the settlement plan;

"5. Endorses the contents of the statement of 29 July 1994 by the President of the Security Council in which the Council, inter alia, welcomed the progress made to date on the issues outlined in the report of the Secretary-General 3/ towards the implementation of the settlement plan, commended, in particular, the work of the Identification Commission and the efforts of the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General pursuant to resolution 907 (1994) and urged the two parties to continue to cooperate with the Secretary-General and the United Nations Mission for the

Referendum in Western Sahara to ensure the earliest possible implementation of the settlement plan; 4/

"6. Expresses the hope that direct talks between the two parties will soon resume in order to create a propitious atmosphere conducive to a speedy and effective implementation of the settlement plan;

"7. Requests the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue to consider the situation in Western Sahara, bearing in mind the ongoing referendum process, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session;

"8. Invites the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution."

III. GOOD OFFICES OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

4. An account of a series of contacts and consultations undertaken in 1994 by the Secretary-General in the exercise of his good offices, within the context of General Assembly resolution 48/49 of 10 December 1993, is given in his report of 7 October 1994 to the Assembly at its forty-ninth session (A/49/492). Since the circulation of that report, the Secretary-General, in close cooperation with the current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), has continued to exercise his good offices with the parties concerned.

5. It may be recalled that the Security Council, by its resolution 907 (1994) of 29 March 1994, requested the Secretary-General to report to the Council not later than 15 July 1994 on progress achieved in the work of the Identification Commission as well as other aspects relevant to the implementation of the settlement plan with a view to deciding on further action necessary for fulfilment of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO). Accordingly, the Secretary-General submitted his report (S/1994/819) on 12 July, in which he noted that his Deputy Special Representative had met with both parties as well as the representatives of Algeria and Mauritania to discuss implementation of resolution 907 (1994). The Secretary-General stated that the Identification Commission had achieved the agreement and cooperation of both parties in order to proceed with the identification of potential voters. During their consultations with the Commission, the two parties had agreed on two Saharan tribal subgroups (subfractions) with which to start the operation and on the relevant sheikhs to assist the Commission in determining the identity and eligibility of applicants who were members of those subfractions. With the agreement of the parties as regards other arrangements, the Commission succeeded in completing all necessary groundwork for launching the process on 8 June. However, the Commission could not start the identification operation because of the difficulty over the OAU observers described in paragraphs 28 to 32 of the report of the Secretary-General of 12 July 1994 (S/1994/819).

6. In order to overcome that difficulty, the Secretary-General held extensive consultations with the current Chairman and the Secretary-General of OAU and with other concerned parties with a view to enabling the Commission to start the identification and registration of potential voters, which was subsequently planned on 8 August 1994.

7. Meanwhile, the Identification Commission had collected a total of over 75,000 completed application forms, of which 20,000 had been processed and analysed.

8. The Secretary-General had indicated his intention to recommend that the transitional period should start on 1 October 1994 and that the referendum should take place on 14 February 1995, subject to the approval of the Security Council.

9. In his report (S/1994/1257) of 5 November 1994, the Secretary-General informed the Security Council that the identification and registration operation had finally been launched on 28 August, with an opening ceremony held simultaneously at Laayoune and the El-Aiun camp in the Tindouf area. Within the first two months of its operation, the Commission had collected 81,500 completed forms and continued to computerize and analyse them. In a letter to the parties dated 21 September, the Deputy Special Representative set 15 October 1994 as the deadline for the receipt of applications. However, owing to unprecedented heavy rainfall and consequent flash-flooding on 8 and 9 October in the Tindouf area, a 10-day grace period was granted for the receipt of applications.

10. In the second half of October, there was a flood of completed application forms. It exceeded the number previously received. However, the pace with which the applications were computerized and analysed indicated that many months would be required to make sufficient progress in the identification process, forcing a revised timetable for the steps still to be taken to implement the settlement plan. In this connection, the Secretary-General indicated that he would report to the Security Council on the organization and timing of the referendum after the consultations he intended to hold during his visit to the area in November 1994.

11. On 15 November 1994, the President of the Security Council made a statement on behalf of the Council (S/PRST/1994/67) in which he expressed, among other things, the concern of the Council about the slow speed of the identification process. The Council hoped that after his visit to the area the Secretary-General would be able to report significant progress towards implementing the settlement plan and holding the long overdue referendum.

12. In his report (S/1994/1420) of 14 December 1994 to the Security Council, the Secretary-General gave an account of his consultations with the parties during his visit to the mission area from 25 to 29 November 1994. Issues discussed had included the process leading to the referendum; the Security Council's position on this issue; increasing the number of the identification centres and personnel; various other aspects of MINURSO'S work; and the cooperation of both parties with the Deputy Special Representative. He noted that the leaders of the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y de Río de Oro (Frente POLISARIO) had expressed concern about certain

developments since the beginning of the identification and registration process that they viewed as impediments to the smooth implementation of the settlement plan and the conduct of a free, fair and impartial referendum. In addressing the Frente POLISARIO's main concern, the last-minute submission of the large number of application forms, the Secretary-General had assured them of the independence, impartiality, fairness and integrity of the Identification Commission.

13. The Secretary-General also reported that he had met King Hassan II of Morocco and some cabinet members and that he was reassured that Morocco remained fully committed to the settlement plan and would continue to provide all assistance required to implement the plan. The Secretary-General stated that both parties had agreed that the beginning of the identification and registration process was a major step towards the full implementation of the plan and that necessary measures should be taken to accelerate very significantly the pace of that process.

14. The Secretary-General reported that a technical team had visited MINURSO from 10 to 14 November 1994 to reassess the logistics and other requirements for the possible full deployment of the mission at full strength. The team agreed that MINURSO should focus on finding the means to speed up the process of identifying and registering potential voters and, in this connection, strongly supported the idea of expanding the Identification Commission.

15. In his report, the Secretary-General noted that the identification of potential voters was a complex operation as it could take place only in the presence of observers of both parties and of OAU, as well as two tribal leaders (sheikhs), one from each side who could testify. It follows that in the absence of one observer or one sheikh, the work had to be postponed or delayed. The process was time-consuming in that the potential voters could be identified only through meticulous examination of material evidence and through detailed interviews with applicants in the presence of all concerned from both parties.

16. The Secretary-General noted that, given the large number of applications received, the only way to complete identification and registration in a reasonable time would be through a major reinforcement of personnel and other resources. The Deputy Special Representative had indicated that the four identification and registration teams working in Laayoune and Tindouf (two at each centre) had achieved a weekly output of 1,000 potential voters interviewed and identified and that the rate of output was steadily increasing. A new centre became operational in Boujdour on 2 December and another centre became operational in the Tindouf area on 5 December. It was estimated, however, that the completion of the work within a reasonable time-frame would require an estimated 25 teams working simultaneously at an increased number of identification and registration centres. As indicated in the Secretary-General's report of 5 November (S/1994/1257), consultations were already being held with the parties regarding the locations, equipping and opening of additional centres. MINURSO had developed a plan for the establishment of six additional centres and five mobile identification and registration teams.

17. The Secretary-General expressed the hope that by 31 March 1995 the progress achieved in the identification and registration process would reach a level that would enable him to recommend 1 June 1995 as the date for the start of the transitional period. The Secretary-General noted that as of 1 June 1995, in accordance with the settlement plan, the combatants of the two sides would be confined to designated locations and, as soon as possible after that date, prisoners of war would be exchanged, amnesty would be proclaimed for political prisoners and detainees and for returnees and all political prisoners or detainees would be released. It was indicated that the referendum would be held in October 1995.

18. On 13 January 1995, the Security Council, having considered the Secretary-General's report (S/1994/1420) of 14 December 1994, adopted resolution 973 (1995), in which it approved the expansion of MINURSO as proposed in paragraphs 17 to 19 of the Secretary-General's report and expressed the hope that every effort would be made to deploy the observers necessary to complete the identification process in a timely fashion in accordance with the settlement plan. The Council requested the Secretary-General to report by 31 March 1995 to confirm the arrangements with regard to the logistics, personnel and other resources required for the deployment of MINURSO at full strength in order to fulfil the United Nations mission in Western Sahara. The Council expected to be able, on the basis of the report submitted by 31 March 1995, to confirm 1 June 1995 as the date for the start of the transitional period with a view to holding the referendum in October 1995 and to bringing the mission to a successful conclusion shortly thereafter. By the same resolution, the Council decided that the mandate of MINURSO should continue to 31 May 1995. It also decided to consider the possible extension of the mandate of MINURSO after 31 May 1995 on the basis of a further report from the Secretary-General and in the light of progress achieved towards the holding of the referendum and the implementation of the settlement plan.

19. The Secretary-General, in his interim report (S/1995/240) of 30 March 1995, pointed out that on 14 December 1994 the Government of Spain had forwarded important archival material to his Deputy Special Representative, at his request. The material comprised 48 volumes of birth certificates, 19 volumes of marriage certificates, 11 volumes of divorce certificates and 11 volumes of death certificates, which together constituted the Registro Civil Cheranico del Sahara Occidental. Those documents had been classified by MINURSO identification staff and were proving of considerable value as aids to identification, especially for doubtful cases, and for the exhaustive review of all files undertaken in conjunction with the observations received from the representatives of the parties.

20. The Secretary-General observed that the single greatest obstacle to identification had been the issue of tribal leaders. The settlement plan gave tribal leaders the responsibility for identifying applicants as being the persons they claimed to be and as belonging to a particular tribal group (subfraction); the sheikhs were also to provide oral testimony relevant to the eligibility criteria. Most sheikhs, elected as they had been in 1973, were already of mature years at the time and many had since died or become incapacitated. There were, in consequence, a large number of subfractions, one third of the total, without a recognized tribal leader on at least one side.

Until last year, this unresolved issue had been the most intractable obstacle to identification.

21. The Secretary-General noted that on other related cases the views of the Frente POLISARIO and the Government of Morocco diverged markedly. The Frente POLISARIO argued that to avoid any subsequent manipulation of the selection of sheikhs, only sheikhs elected in the Territory in 1973, or their eldest sons, should be eligible to testify. Morocco opposed the view that the 1973 list of sheikhs could not be changed. It argued that the 1973 election of sheikhs under Spanish rule had been the only one ever held in the Territory, that sheikhs had traditionally been co-opted and not elected, that not all Saharan sheikhs had necessarily been in the Territory in 1973, and that those elected in 1973 might subsequently have been replaced by others, since their term of office was to last only five years.

22. On 10 February 1995, the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General addressed similar letters to both parties in which he proposed that a surviving sheikh from the 1973 election was to be preferred; then his eldest surviving son; then a candidate from the election of 1973, normally by descending number of votes received; and failing that, the party would put forward three names from which the Chairman of the Identification Commission would select one, after consultation with the other party. The three names were to be of persons from the subfraction concerned, of recognized standing in their community, of appropriate age, without any official position and themselves included in the census lists of 1974.

23. In response, on 25 February 1995, the Moroccan authorities provided detailed statistical information concerning the whereabouts of all members of the subfractions listed as resident in the Territory. The Moroccan authorities undertook to make available names of candidates to replace sheikhs as required. On 26 February 1995, the Frente POLISARIO responded with the names of persons to be considered as replacements in the absence of sheikhs.

24. As regards the logistic, personnel and other resources required for the deployment of MINURSO at full strength, the Secretary-General noted that, in addition to the four identification centres which were operating by the end of 1994, three more centres had been opened between February and March 1995 in the towns of Smara and Dakhla in the Territory and in the El-Aiun refugee camp near Tindouf. Also, arrangements had been completed to establish a centre in the Dakhla camp, some 180 kilometres from Tindouf. Sixteen identification teams were to be assigned to these eight centres. The Secretary-General indicated that local conditions and logistics permitting two identification teams working in tandem at each centre had the capacity to process up to 150 cases a day. It was therefore expected that approximately 20,000 applicants could be processed per month at eight centres.

25. The Secretary-General also indicated that once additional qualified staff and equipment became available, two more centres would be established, bringing the total number of centres to 10. Provision had also been made for the deployment of five mobile teams to deal with smaller numbers in more remote places. It was estimated that as many as 25,000 persons would then be identified monthly. As of mid-March 1995, over 21,300 persons had been

identified. This represents 16.5 per cent (13,473 out of 81,855) of those applicants in the Territory about whom information was fully available to MINURSO and 27.3 per cent (7,870 out of 28,831) of those in the camps in the Tindouf area. MINURSO has completed computerized information relevant to all applications received from persons to be identified in the four population centres in Western Sahara (Boujdour, Dakhla, Laayoune and Smara) and in the camps in the Tindouf area (Awsard, Dakhla, El-Aiun and Es-Smara camps). The data processing of the additional 14,568 applications received in Mauritania, in spite of the many technical problems, had also been completed.

26. As regards the final plan for implementing the settlement plan, the Secretary-General recalled the main elements of the plan contained in his report (S/1994/819) of 12 July 1994. During the transitional period, the United Nations is to organize and conduct a referendum in the Territory to enable the people of Western Sahara to choose between independence and integration with Morocco. To this end, there is to be a cease-fire followed by an exchange of prisoners of war, a reduction in the Moroccan troops in the Territory and confinement of the combatants of both sides to specific locations. In order to ensure that the necessary conditions exist for the holding of a free and fair referendum, the United Nations will monitor other aspects of the administration of the Territory, especially the maintenance of law and order. Following the proclamation of an amnesty, political prisoners will be released. All laws or regulations that might impede the holding of a free and fair referendum will be suspended as deemed necessary. All refugees and other Western Saharan residents outside the Territory who wish to return will be enabled to do so by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) after their right to vote has been established.

27. The Secretary-General observed that with the additional resources necessary for carrying out the identification of potential voters that had been promised and the agreement that had been reached on how identification might be carried forward, the holding of the referendum had thus become a real possibility. However, progress in identification would depend more than anything on the collaboration of both parties. In his report (S/1994/1420) of 14 December 1994, the Secretary-General expressed the hope that progress achieved in the identification and registration process by 31 March 1995 would enable him to recommend 1 June 1995 as the date for the start of the transitional period. While the rate of identification was increasing, the progress achieved by 31 March 1995 did not permit him to make that recommendation. If, however, the parties made it possible to raise the rate of identification to 25,000 per month and if they cooperated in resolving expeditiously the remaining issues in the settlement plan, it can be envisaged that the transitional period could begin in August 1995 and that the referendum could be held in January 1996.

28. At the 3516th meeting of the Security Council, held on 12 April 1995, following the Council's consideration of the Secretary-General's report (S/1995/240) of 30 March 1995, the President of the Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

> "The Security Council notes the report of the Secretary-General dated 30 March 1995 (S/1995/240). It welcomes progress achieved so far in the identification and registration process, in particular the acceleration in

the rate of identification, and emphasizes the need to continue that acceleration. It endorses the Secretary-General's goal of achieving a rate of at least 25,000 per month. However, the Council regrets that progress was not sufficient to enable the Secretary-General to recommend 1 June 1995 as the date for the commencement of the transitional period.

"The Security Council also notes with concern the delays resulting from the failure to ensure the continuous presence at the identification centres of the necessary sub-fraction representatives. It welcomes the agreement on a method for choosing alternative sub-fraction representatives when necessary and it expresses the hope that this will contribute to further acceleration of the process with a view to holding the referendum in January 1996. The Council supports the Secretary-General's call upon both parties to cooperate fully with the Identification Commission in the performance of its work, in particular by abandoning their insistence on strict reciprocity in the number of centres and on the linkage of a centre on one side with a specific centre on the other.

"The Security Council expresses its concern about the slow progress on the other aspects which are relevant to the fulfilment of the settlement plan and must be implemented before the referendum can take place. It calls upon both parties to cooperate fully with the Secretary-General, with his Deputy Special Representative, with the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), and to coordinate such cooperation to ensure prompt and full implementation of all aspects of the settlement plan.

"The Security Council hopes to see continuous and rapid progress by the time of the Secretary-General's next report in May 1995, which would enable it to consider favourably the possible extension of MINURSO's mandate."

29. Pursuant to resolution 973 (1995) of 13 January 1995 and the statement by the President of the Security Council of 12 April 1995, the Secretary-General submitted his report (S/1995/404) on 19 May 1995 in which he updated initial information on the ongoing identification process for the referendum in Western Sahara (ibid., paras. 2-11). The Secretary-General said that he was encouraged that, in spite of all the communications, logistic and other difficulties encountered, individuals were showing a real commitment to the identification process.

30. As regards the final plan for implementation of all elements of the settlement plan, the Secretary-General stated the position with regard to the reduction of Moroccan troops in the Territory: confinement of troops of the Frente POLISARIO; release of political prisoners and detainees; exchange of prisoners of war; code of conduct; and return of refugees, other Western Saharans and members of the Frente POLISARIO entitled to vote (ibid., paras. 13-18).

31. Under the settlement plan, which came into effect in 1990, the Kingdom of Morocco and the Frente POLISARIO recognize that the sole and exclusive responsibility for the organization and conduct of the referendum in Western

Sahara is vested in the United Nations. The parties also undertook to cooperate with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in the performance of his functions. In this context, the Secretary-General stated that if MINURSO was permitted to proceed rapidly with identification, the referendum could take place only next year. He added that meanwhile, and before confirming the date for the start of the transitional period, progress must be achieved on the important aspects of the settlement plan, which required the following: in early July 1995, the Secretary-General is expected to forward to the parties the final text of the code of conduct and to inform the Security Council accordingly. The Secretary-General also stated that in August 1995 he would inform the Council of the progress made by the independent jurist on the release of political prisoners. In September, the Secretary-General would make a ruling on the confinement of the Frente POLISARIO troops. By that time, the Secretary-General should have received confirmation from the Government of Morocco on the arrangements for the reduction of its troops in the Territory.

32. The Secretary-General recommended that the Security Council extend the mandate of MINURSO for a period of four months. Further, by the end of September, he would assess all the progress achieved and, on that basis, make recommendations to the Security Council for the fulfilment of the United Nations mandate in Western Sahara (ibid., para. 39).

33. At its 3540th meeting, held on 26 May 1995, the Security Council, following its consideration of the Secretary-General's report of 19 May, adopted resolution 995 (1995), the operative part of which reads as follows:

> "1. Reiterates its commitment to holding, without further delay, a free, fair and impartial referendum for self-determination of the people of Western Sahara in accordance with the settlement plan which has been accepted by the two parties;
>
> "2. Commends the progress in identifying potential voters since the beginning of the year;
>
> "3. Expresses concern, however, that certain practices identified in the Secretary-General's report are hampering further progress towards the implementation of the settlement plan, and underlines the need for the parties to heed the Secretary-General's call on them to work with the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara in a spirit of genuine cooperation;
>
> "4. Decides in this context, and with a view to accelerating the implementation of the settlement plan, to send a mission of the Council to the region;
>
> "5. Decides, therefore, to extend at this stage the present mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara until 30 June 1995;

"6. Decides to consider the further extension of the mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara beyond 30 June 1995 in the light of the Secretary-General's report of 19 May 1995 and the report of the Security Council mission referred to in paragraph 4 above;

"7. Decides to remain seized of the matter."

IV. POLITICAL AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

34. In a statement at the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly, on 29 September 1994 (A/49/PV.10), Mr. Abdellatif Filali, Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Morocco, stated that with regard to the question of Western Sahara the United Nations settlement plan had entered the final stage of implementation. He said that Morocco had cooperated sincerely with the Secretary-General, as attested to in the Secretary-General's reports, with a view to facilitating his mission and speeding up the ongoing process. He added that Morocco looked forward with optimism to the holding of the referendum within the next few months.

35. On 12 October 1994, a representative of the Frente POLISARIO, speaking at the 4th meeting of the Fourth Committee, said that after 15 years of fighting, there was a favourable international context for the peaceful settlement of conflicts; the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity had worked out a settlement plan for Western Sahara which had gained the acceptance of both parties and had been approved by the Security Council. The representative stated that the objective of the plan was the organization of a referendum of self-determination which would allow the Saharan people to choose freely between independence, for which they had fought, or integration to the Power which had occupied their Territory by force. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 40/50 of 2 December 1985 and OAU resolution AHG/Res.104 (XIX) of 12 June 1983, the referendum was to be organized in the absence of military or administrative constraints. However, Morocco had imposed on the United Nations the stationing of 65,000 soldiers and of administrative and police forces during the transitional period and tens of thousands of settlers had been transferred to the Territory. The Frente POLISARIO representative said that those were certainly not ideal conditions for a free referendum, especially since the number of people eligible to vote did not exceed 80,000. The Saharan Arab Democratic Republic, a full-fledged member of OAU, had made those concessions in order to contribute to the success of the joint effort undertaken by the United Nations and OAU. He stated that the Moroccan Government, however, while attempting to use the United Nations to legitimize its occupation of the Territory, had imposed a unilateral modification of the most fundamental provision relating to the question of voter identification in order to include Moroccan people in the voter's list for the referendum.

36. The representative of Frente POLISARIO said that after the adoption by the Security Council of resolution 907 (1994), in which it had opted for the second of the three options proposed by the Secretary-General, the Frente POLISARIO had spared no effort to ensure that the peace process, which had been greatly damaged by the deliberate obstruction of the Moroccan Government, was kept alive

and ended with success. He said that Morocco had yet again created obstacles to the work of identifying Saharans eligible to vote in the referendum and that had compelled the Identification Commission to delay the beginning of its work by several months.

37. The Frente POLISARIO representative went on to say that there were sufficient facts to demonstrate that much still remained to be done in order to ensure a transparent, fair and free referendum. The transitional period had not yet begun and there was no guarantee that Morocco would respect its results since the Moroccan leaders, both of the Government and of the official opposition, were constantly reiterating that they would not accept anything but a referendum confirming the occupation.

38. The representative said that the United Nations should assume fully the responsibility incumbent upon it in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations in dealing with the conflict, the continuation of which was depriving the Saharan people of their legitimate rights and endangering the security and stability of the Maghreb and North Africa. The Frente POLISARIO was willing to engage in an official, responsible and serious dialogue with the Moroccan Government to eliminate difficulties on the road to the organization of a referendum of self-determination. Only a referendum of self-determination with international guarantees to ensure its credibility and transparency would lead to a just and definitive peace, and consequently, to the strengthening of stability in the region.

39. Speaking at the 6th meeting of the Fourth Committee, on 13 October 1994, the Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations, H.E. Ahmed Snoussi, reiterated his Government's cooperation with the Secretary-General to find a joint and lasting solution to the question of Western Sahara. He said that the Committee, in making its recommendations on the question, could not, of course, contradict the provisions made by the Security Council or become a forum for the claims of one party and its promoters. He further said that the settlement plan was well on its way to achievement and all members must take a responsible attitude so as not to jeopardize the process. He added that the problem of the Sahara had become the international community's problem, and the international community, with Morocco's consent, had chosen to re-route it through the Security Council and the Secretary-General.

40. At its 13th meeting, on 28 October 1994, the Fourth Committee adopted without a vote draft resolution A/C.4/49/L.5/Rev.1 on the question of Western Sahara. On 9 December 1994, on the recommendation of the Fourth Committee, the General Assembly adopted the draft resolution without a vote as resolution 49/44 (see para. 3 above).

41. In his statement at the opening session of the Special Committee on 27 February 1995, the representative of the Secretary-General said that General Assembly resolution 49/44 reaffirmed the goal of a free, fair and impartial referendum for the people of Western Sahara. The Security Council, which continued to be seized of the matter, was following closely the implementation of the settlement plan. On the ground, the identification process was now under way, which would lead to the organization of the referendum in October 1995.

42. Following its recent decision (resolution 995 (1995), para. 4) made with a view to accelerating the implementation of the settlement plan, the Security Council agreed on 30 May to send a six-member mission to the region on 3 June for six days with the following terms of reference:

- "To impress upon the parties the necessity of cooperating fully with MINURSO in the implementation of all aspects of the settlement plan and to underline the fact that any further delay would put the whole future of the mission at risk;

- "To assess progress and identify problems in the identification process, bearing in mind the deadline for the referendum of January 1996;

- "To identify problems in other areas relevant to the fulfilment of the settlement plan (including the reduction of Moroccan troops, the confinement of Frente POLISARIO troops, the release of political prisoners and detainees, the exchange of prisoners of war and the return of refugees)." 5/

Notes

1/ A/49/23 (Part V), sect. B.4.

2/ A/49/492.

3/ S/1994/819.

4/ See S/PRST/1994/39.

5/ S/1995/431.

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WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING
OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL
COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM

MID-TERM REVIEW OF THE PLAN OF ACTION

Report of the Caribbean Regional Seminar, held at Port-of-Spain from 3 to 5 July 1995

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991 entitled "International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism", and a plan of action contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General (A/46/634/Rev.1 and Corr.1) aimed at ushering in, in the twenty-first century, a world free from colonialism, in which, inter alia, the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples was requested to organize during the Decade seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions alternately, as well as at United Nations Headquarters, to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the plan of action, with the participation of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, their elected representatives, the administering Powers, Member States, regional organizations, specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and experts.

2. In its resolution 46/70 of 11 December 1991 on cooperation and coordination of specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations in their assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories, the General Assembly stated that:

> "[I]n addition to general problems facing developing countries, the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, many of which are small island Territories, also suffer handicaps arising from the interplay of such factors as their size, remoteness, geographical dispersion, vulnerability to natural disasters, the fragility of their ecosystems, constraints in transport and communications, great distances from market centres, a highly limited internal market, lack of natural resources, weak indigenous technological capacity, the acute problem of obtaining freshwater supplies, heavy dependence on imports and a small number of commodities, depletion of non-renewable resources, migration, particularly of personnel with high-level skills, shortage of administrative personnel and heavy financial burdens".

3. In its resolution 49/89 of 16 December 1994, the General Assembly decided that the Special Committee should carry out, during its 1995 session, a mid-term review of the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism in the context of the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations.

4. As stated in the guidelines and rules of procedure for the Seminar (A/AC.109/2024), the primary objective of the Seminar was to assess political, economic and social conditions in the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories particularly with a view to evaluating their evolution towards self-determination. Special attention was paid to the examination of the options for self-determination open to the populations of the Territories concerned in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960, as well as the Plan of Action.

5. The topics considered by the Seminar would assist the Special Committee in carrying out a realistic evaluation of the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Seminar gave pre-eminence to a broad range of views of the peoples of those Territories. Considering the particular importance of the review of the Plan of Action at the mid-point of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and in the year of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, the Seminar invited representatives of the peoples and the administering Powers from the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean region. It also secured the participation of experts, organizations and institutions that are actively involved in the political, economic and social development of these Territories and of selected non-governmental organizations with long and established experience in island Territories. The contributions of the participants served as a basis for the conclusions and recommendations of the Seminar, which would assist the Special Committee in its consideration of the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories during its 1995 session.

II. ORGANIZATION OF THE SEMINAR

6. The Seminar was held at Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, from 3 to 5 June 1995.

7. The Seminar held six meetings, in which representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories, specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, as well as experts on the question of decolonization took part. A list of participants is given in annex II to the present report.

8. The Seminar was conducted by Mr. Eugene M. Pursoo (Grenada), Chairman of the Special Committee. The following members of the Special Committee participated: China, Grenada, India, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Sierra Leone, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, United Republic of Tanzania and Venezuela. Argentina participated in the Seminar as an observer. Portugal took part in the work of the Seminar in its capacity as an administering Power.

9. At the first meeting, on 3 July 1995, the following representatives were appointed as officers of the Seminar:

Vice-Chairman: Mr. Alimamy Pallo Bangura (Sierra Leone);

Rapporteur: Mrs. Annette des Iles (Trinidad and Tobago);

Chairman of the Drafting Committee: Mr. Utula Utuoc Samana (Papua New Guinea);

Members of the Drafting Committee: Mr. Rengaraj Viswanathan (India); Mrs. Annette des Iles (Trinidad and Tobago); Mr. Ulli K. Mwambulukutu (United Republic of Tanzania); Mr. Allan Breier (Venezuela).

It was subsequently agreed that the Drafting Committee would be open-ended.

10. The agenda of the Seminar contained the following items:

1. Economic and social questions; environmental issues:

(a) Economic and social advancement of Non-Self-Governing Territories; its impact on the exercise of the right to self-determination;

(b) Development of tourism; its impact on the economic and social sectors, and on the environment;

(c) Issue of drug trafficking and money laundering;

(d) Human resources development and the consequences of emigration and immigration;

(e) The role of specialized agencies and international and regional organizations in the economic and social advancement of the Territories;

(f) Access of Non-Self-Governing Territories to programmes and activities of the United Nations system;

(g) Particular areas in which regional cooperation requires strengthening by both the Territories concerned and international agencies: preservation and protection of marine and other natural resources from over-exploitation; transport and communications; higher education; research and development; regional pooling arrangements for sharing special skills and expertise; and assistance in the public health area;

(h) Implications for the island Territories of global warming, sea-level rise and other ecological hazards;

(i) Local efforts in national disaster preparedness: institutionalization and coordination of disaster relief;

(j) International and regional cooperation in mitigating the effects of natural disasters;

(k) Questions relating to the law of the sea and the Non-Self-Governing Territories of the region.

2. Options for self-determination:

Self-determination: concept, options and their application in small island Non-Self-Governing Territories; examination of options for self-determination available to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories under General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960 and other relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions:

(i) Independence;

(ii) Free association with an independent State;

(iii) Integration with an independent State;

(iv) Association with an organization (regional/subregional) of independent States;

(v) Economically sustainable autonomy;

(vi) Other possible options.

III. CONDUCT OF THE SEMINAR

A. Proceedings of the meetings

11. The Seminar was opened on 3 July 1995 by Mr. Eugene M. Pursoo (Grenada), in his capacity as Chairman of the Seminar.

12. The Chairman introduced Mr. Vincent Lasse, Minister of Housing and Settlements of Trinidad and Tobago, who delivered an address at the opening of the Seminar. In accordance with a decision taken by the Seminar at its first meeting, on 3 July 1995, the statement is reproduced in extenso in annex I to the present report.

13. At its sixth meeting, on 5 July 1995, the Seminar adopted by consensus a final document entitled "Conclusions and recommendations" (for further details, see chap. III). At the same meeting, the Seminar adopted by acclamation a resolution expressing its appreciation to the Government and people of Trinidad and Tobago (see annex III to the present report). At the same meeting, the Chairman of the Special Committee made a closing statement.

14. Also at the sixth meeting, the representative of Indonesia reiterated the position of his Government on the question of East Timor and expressed reservations regarding any reference to East Timor.

B. Summary of statements and discussions

15. During the discussion of the items on the agenda of the Seminar, the participants expressed their views on a number of issues, including the following:

(a) Options for self-determination

(i) While considering the options available to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, the Special Committee should be guided by General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV) and other options in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and other relevant international covenants;

(ii) Appropriate political educational campaigns concerning a legitimate option or options for self-determination and their implications should precede any exercise of the right to self-determination;

(iii) A view was expressed that the future status of Gibraltar should be considered in conformity with General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV) and in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

(iv) The Seminar heard statements by representatives of Indonesia, Portugal and East Timor, reaffirming their commitment to continue their ongoing dialogue to find a just, comprehensive and internationally acceptable settlement to the East Timor issue, with the assistance of the United Nations.

(b) Political and constitutional development

(i) Strengthening of local self-government facilitates advancement towards the right to self-determination;

(ii) The legitimate acts of self-determination organized in the Non-Self-Governing Territories should be conducted with the appropriate involvement of the United Nations, taking into consideration United Nations experience world wide in assisting in organizing elections and other such exercises.

(c) Regional organizations and arrangements

(i) Participation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in regional and subregional organizations is an important catalyst towards the exercise of the right to self-determination;

(ii) The participants noted with appreciation the commendable work done by the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee in reaching out to the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean area through the inclusion of these Territories in its work programme, research studies and analyses with regard to the situation in these Territories.

(d) Socio-economic issues

Representatives of many Non-Self-Governing Territories were of the view that the achievement of adequate sustainable economic development should precede any exercise of self-determination.

(e) Special Committee

(i) The Special Committee should continue to take into account the changing international circumstances when realistically assessing the political developments with regard to the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(ii) The Special Committee, in conjunction with the specialized agencies and international institutions of the United Nations system, should continue to undertake periodic analyses of the progress and extent of the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and of the Plan of Action for the eradication of colonialism by the year 2000;

(iii) The Special Committee should continue to assist the Non-Self-Governing Territories in obtaining greater benefits from the United Nations system as a means of enhancing their socio-economic development and political advancement;

(iv) The Special Committee should continue to implement its mandate with greater innovation and flexibility and through pragmatic and practical approaches;

(v) The participants noted that the dissemination of information on decolonization issues and the receipt of information on the Non-Self-Governing Territories are far from adequate, and expressed the view that the Special Committee should explore options to widen and intensify its contacts and communications with the Non-Self-Governing Territories, particularly in the field of receiving and disseminating information on decolonization. In this connection, they requested the United Nations Committee on Information to mandate the Department of Public Information to increase its activities in the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(vi) The participants also emphasized the importance of participation of the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the deliberations of the Special Committee.

(f) United Nations system

The peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories should be provided comprehensive information on the scope and modalities of assistance that can be provided to them by the United Nations.

IV. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE SEMINAR

16. At its final meeting, on 5 July 1995, the participants in the Seminar adopted by consensus the following conclusions and recommendations:

Conclusions and recommendations

The Seminar, having undertaken the mid-term review of the implementation of the Plan of Action:

1. Wishes to extend, in this the year of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations and the mid-term in the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, its unanimous heartfelt congratulations to

the world Organization for its many achievements in the various areas of activities and, in particular, for its resounding success to date in the area of decolonization; also wishes to express its best wishes to the United Nations for its future successes for the benefit of all countries and peoples of the world, including those yet to exercise their right to self-determination, with its assistance and guidance;

2. Recognizes that the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples is not yet complete and, in assisting in the further development of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, recommends that observer status be extended to the Non-Self-Governing Territories for their participation in the official activities of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations;

3. Considers that, in the present stage of global developments, there is a need for identifying and implementing innovative practical and pragmatic approaches in the search for a specific solution to each of the Territories in question in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the populations concerned and in conformity with General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV), 1541 (XV) and other relevant United Nations resolutions;

4. Reiterates that specific characteristics of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories should in no way prevent their populations from exercising their inalienable right to self-determination in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV);

5. Expresses its conviction that continued and sustained socio-economic advancement of the Non-Self-Governing Territories is an important element of self-determination;

6. Recognizes the importance of programmes of socio-economic assistance provided to those Territories by the administering Powers, as well as by the specialized agencies and international organizations of the United Nations system and by regional and subregional organizations; requests those major donors to increase their programmes of assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories in conformity with the needs and wishes of the peoples of the Territories;

7. Considers that foreign investment, in collaboration with the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and in conformity with their needs, constitutes an important factor in the socio-economic development of the Territories and can make a valid contribution to the exercise of their right to self-determination;

8. Takes note with satisfaction of the announced plans of the administering Powers to close or downsize some of their remaining military bases and facilities in the Non-Self-Governing Territories and requests the administering Powers and the territorial Governments to cooperate, with a view to preventing or mitigating the possible

negative socio-economic and environmental consequences of those closures;

9. Reaffirms the validity of all available options for self-determination as long as they are in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned and in conformity with the clearly defined principles contained in General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV); also reaffirms the importance of ascertaining the views of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories through legitimate acts of self-determination;

10. Maintains that continued examination of the spectrum of options for self-determination by all parties concerned and dissemination of relevant information among the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories are important elements in achieving the goals of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Plan of Action;

11. Expresses concern about the lack of attendance at the Seminar on the part of the elected territorial representatives because of the limitations of the mandate of the Special Committee to communicate directly with the Governments of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

12. Recommends that the Special Committee request the United Nations Committee on Information to mandate the Department of Public Information and the United Nations Information Centres to disseminate information on decolonization and other United Nations activities in the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

13. Recommends that the conclusions and recommendations of the Seminar be taken into consideration in the preparation of the 1995 report of the Special Committee;

14. Recommends that the Special Committee request the General Assembly to include in its resolutions on decolonization a request addressed to the United Nations Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly on the implementation of the resolutions relating to decolonization;

15. Expresses its concern regarding difficulties in the implementation of the relevant provision of the Plan of Action which calls for periodic analyses of the progress and extent of the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and calls upon the Special Committee to find alternative ways for the implementation of that provision;

16. Welcomes the launching in London, on the day of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, by Gibraltar and the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), together with other dependent territories, of the Association of the British Dependent Territories, with a view to promoting mutual cooperation and assisting in the dissemination of information relevant to the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

17. Notes the request of Gibraltar that the Special Committee give consideration to the relevance of article X of the Treaty of Utrecht of 1713 as regards the available options in respect of this particular Non-Self-Governing Territory and suggests that this request be considered by the Special Committee;

18. Affirms that, as most of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories are small island States, it is important that continued socio-economic advancement, including foreign economic investment, focus on environmentally sensitive sustainable development, as socio-economic viability and stability seriously impact on the self-determination efforts of the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories; recommends that technical capacity be provided to Non-Self-Governing Territories in order to develop environmental and resource profiles of their Territories;

19. Supports the recommendation of the 1990 Special Committee Regional Seminar held in Barbados and the 1992 Regional Seminar in Grenada for formal collaboration between the Special Committee and the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) on the CDCC-proposed comprehensive study of the access of Non-Self-Governing Territories to programmes and activities of the United Nations system in furtherance of the development process of these Territories;

20. Endorses the work of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee in assisting the socio-economic and constitutional development process of many Caribbean Non-Self-Governing Territories, and calls on the Special Committee to assist CDCC in carrying out the relevant provisions of its work programme, as identified by the Governments of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, in particular its socio-economic and constitutional profile of the non-independent Caribbean, its analysis of the participation of Non-Self-Governing Territories in programmes and activities of the United Nations system, including United Nations conferences, and its study on the impact of international trade arrangements on the economies of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

21. Endorses the view that regional institutions such as CDCC and the South Pacific Forum had more direct contact with the Non-Self-Governing Territories, as most of these Territories were members or associate members of a number of regional institutions, with the concurrence of their respective administering Powers;

22. Supports the need for accreditation of non-governmental organizations in the Non-Self-Governing Territories to United Nations bodies;

23. Requests the Special Committee to consider the proposal that, since there was no mechanism in place to implement the major features of the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, CDCC should be requested to carry out the relevant provisions of the Plan of Action at the Caribbean regional level, in particular the periodic analyses of the progress and extent of the

implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in the Non-Self-Governing Territories and the review of the impact of the economic and social situation on the constitutional and political advancement of Non-Self-Governing Territories, with the provision of appropriate resources for CDCC to undertake these activities;

24. Supports the need for an extensive study to be undertaken on the economic, social and constitutional conditions in each of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, as called for by the Special Committee Regional Seminar held in Vanuatu in 1990, which should be undertaken by the relevant regional institutions.

ANNEX I

Statement made by the Minister of Housing and Settlements, Trinidad and Tobago, on 3 July 1995

It gives me great pleasure, on behalf of the Government and people of Trinidad and Tobago, to welcome you to our twin-island Republic. We are pleased that you have accepted our Government's offer to host the Regional Seminar. You are charged with the continued pursuit of the important mandate of examining the situation in the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories and with making appropriate recommendations on the implementation of the 1991 Plan of Action on the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, as well as the historic 1960 Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (the famous resolution 1514 (XV)).

Trinidad and Tobago has been a member of the Special Committee on Decolonization - the Special Committee of 24 - since 1962, the year of our independence and attainment of membership in the United Nations. At that time, the mandate of the Special Committee was indeed formidable, and at times may even have appeared insurmountable. Over 50 Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories from Asia, Africa and the Caribbean were the subject of detailed discussions, which inevitably were complicated by cold war considerations.

I recall, with great pleasure, my own personal stint of service on the Special Committee from 1971 to 1976. I had the distinct honour of serving as Rapporteur and representing the Special Committee on several of its visiting missions, to the Pacific and elsewhere. In those early years, the deliberations of the Special Committee were highly spirited and there was a clear sense of the task at hand and the means of pursuing it. Those days hold a very warm place in my memory.

The Special Committee has, over the years, demonstrated the achievability of its objectives. Its membership no longer has to address such emotive questions as the decolonization process in Algeria, Kenya, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Namibia. Mainly in consequence of this process, the membership of the United Nations grew from 104 in 1961 to the present membership of 185, almost completely transforming the Organization.

Today, most of the remaining 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories are very small in size and population. Although the situation in almost all of these Territories, happily, is not volatile, the mandate of the Special Committee remains challenging and its implementation demanding of great innovation and flexibility.

With an ever-evolving international political and economic system and the related changes in the philosophies and approaches of many Governments and peoples, the climate in which the Special Committee must continue to pursue its goals is, unfortunately, one of scepticism by some. This is unfortunate, but it must never serve to deter you from your task.

Most of the dependencies are micro-entities in the Caribbean and Pacific regions which, for understandable reasons, are reluctant to proceed on the path of independence. Many of them question the possibility of their own economic viability as independent entities and, consequently, are concerned about their capacity to provide adequately for their respective populations if the independence option is chosen. The possibility that not all dependencies would wish to pursue independence was acknowledged in General Assembly resolution 1541 (XV). It provides for the political status of a Territory to be determined by more than one legitimate political option to be chosen by the people of the respective Territories.

The resolutions and decisions adopted by the Special Committee have reiterated the principles and guidelines contained in General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV). It is important that the activities and proposals of the Special Committee continue to be governed by these landmark resolutions, which have guided that body, and the United Nations as a whole, on the path of success in the area of decolonization.

On the other hand, the Territories themselves and those responsible for administering them should give greater recognition to the fact that the Special Committee and the United Nations are not seeking to dictate the course of their lives. By contributing to the efforts of the Special Committee to make informed assessments of developments in the Non-Self-Governing Territories and to improve the lives of the inhabitants, the Territories and the administering Powers could optimize the benefits to be derived from tne involvement of the Special Committee in constructive activities and discussions pertaining to the Territories.

It is my view and that of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago that, particularly in this the year of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, the principles of the Charter, and especially chapter XI, containing the Declaration regarding Non-Self-Governing Territories, remain of paramount importance. It is imperative that all relevant bodies of the Organization, including the General Assembly and its subsidiary bodies and the United Nations Secretariat, work towards that end. In practice, this means giving concrete expression to the principle that the interests of the inhabitants of these Territories are paramount. Creative ways must be found to give real meaning to the Committee's mandate to pursue and promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the peoples of the Territories.

The situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean is naturally of direct concern to Trinidad and Tobago. In reality, both the independent States of the Caribbean and the Territories themselves must continue to grapple with the serious constraints of small size and of geographic insularity. We must all equally overcome similar social and economic development problems. Our destinies are inextricably linked.

Some of the obstacles to the development of the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean were the subject of discussion at the last Caribbean Seminar on the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, held in Grenada in 1992. While I understand that a few of the recommendations adopted three years ago have been implemented, I am told that

others, which point the way to activities that could usefully be undertaken in the coming years by the Special Committee and the United Nations as a whole, are yet to be given full effect. Perhaps a review of the proposals not yet implemented could be undertaken. I very much hope that this Seminar will significantly advance the process begun at that earlier meeting in Grenada.

Let me take this opportunity, on behalf of the Government and people of Trinidad and Tobago, and on my own behalf, to wish you a successful Seminar and to express the hope that, time permitting, it will be possible for you to visit other parts of the country and to experience the uniqueness of our multi-ethnic culture.

ANNEX II

List of participants

Delegation of the Special Committee

Mr. Eugene M. Pursoo (Grenada), (Chairman, Special Committee)

Ms. Yao Yuhua (China)

Mr. Rengaraj Viswanathan (India)

Mr. Thomas Samodra Sriwidjaja (Indonesia)

Mr. Domingo M. dos Dores Soares (Indonesia)

Mr. Achmad Wirahadikusumah (Indonesia)

Mr. Utula Utuoc Samana (Papua New Guinea)

Mr. Alimamy Pallo Bangura (Sierra Leone)

Mrs. Annette des Iles (Trinidad and Tobago)

Mrs. Roslyn Khan-Cummings (Trinidad and Tobago)

Mr. El Walid Doudech (Tunisia)

Mr. Ulli K. Mwambulukutu (United Republic of Tanzania)

Mr. Allan Breier (Venezuela)

Administering Power

Mr. Antonio Noronha Gamito (Portugal)

Observers

Mr. Ivan Ivanissevich (Argentina)

Representatives from Non-Self-Governing Territories

Mr. Zacarias da Costa (East Timor)

Ms. Norma Edwards (Falkland Islands (Malvinas))

Mr. William Luxton (Falkland Islands (Malvinas))

Mr. J. J. Bossano (Gibraltar)

Mr. Melvin Farrell (Gibraltar)

Mr. Perry Stieglitz (Gibraltar)

Mr. Dan Parkinson (Guam)

Mr. Ignacio Iriarte (Guam)

Mr. Anthony Babauta (Guam)

Mr. Sonny Orsini (Guam)

Experts

Mr. Frank Abdulah (Trinidad and Tobago)

Miss Judith L. Bourne (United States Virgin Islands)

Mr. Noel Brown (Jamaica)

Mr. José A. Cousiño (Chile)

Mr. Fred Philips (Barbados)

Ms. Donna Winslow (Canada)

United Nations bodies

Mr. Carlyle Corbin (Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean/Caribbean Development Cooperation Committee)

Ms. Claudette Walker, United Nations Development Programme

Mr. Hadi Toron, United Nations Information Centre

Non-governmental organizations

Mr. Yann Celene Uregei (Congrés populaire, New Caledonia)

Mr. Ronald Rivera (Organization of Peoples for Indigenous Rights, Guam)

Mr. C. Walton Brown, Jr. (Committee for the Independence of Bermuda, Bermuda)

Mr. Menelaos Tzelios (Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization, United States of America)

Government of Trinidad and Tobago

Ms. Margaret King-Rousseau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ms. Sharon Bradshaw, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

ANNEX III

Expression of appreciation to the Government and people of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

The Caribbean Regional Seminar,

Having met from 3 to 5 July 1995 at Port-of-Spain for the purpose of conducting a mid-term review of the Plan of Action within the context of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,

Having heard the important message delivered by Mr. Vincent Lasse, Minister of Housing and Settlements of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago,

Expresses its profound gratitude to the Government and people of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for providing the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples with the necessary facilities for its Caribbean Regional Seminar, for the outstanding contribution they have made to the success of the Seminar and, in particular, for the very generous and kind hospitality and the warm and cordial reception accorded to the participants and observers throughout their stay in Trinidad and Tobago.